GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1399
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Special Schemes for Differently Abled Children
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Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has set up any coordination mechanism with other Ministries/Departments and the State Governments to protect the interest of the differently abled children and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has any plans to take initiative to formulate special schemes for children suffering from disability and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the schemes in the country for making barrier free environment for the disabled?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI KRISHANPAL GURJAR)

(a) As per the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, the Central Government has constituted the Central Coordination Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Social Justice and Empowerment, which is responsible for reviewing and coordinating activities with other Ministries/Departments and other Governmental and Non-Governmental organization dealing with matters relating to persons with disabilities including children with disabilities. The Central Coordinating Committee comprises of Secretary-in-charge of the various Ministries/Departments, four members nominated by the Central Government by rotation to represent the States and UTs, Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities etc. as members.

(b) As per the provision of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, the State Governments are mandated to develop schemes/programmes for education, rehabilitation, social security, health care of Persons with disabilities including children with disabilities. As welfare of persons with disabilities is primarily a State subject, the Central

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Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Central Schemes/Programmes and National Institutes. The major schemes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities are Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances, Scheme for Implementation of PwD Act, National Fellowship Scheme etc. Seven National Institutes and two Central Public Sector Undertakings namely, Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India and National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation are providing various rehabilitative services to persons with disabilities.

(c) The Central Government provides grant-in-aid under Scheme of Assistance to Disabled for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances, Scheme of Implementation for Persons with Disabilities (SIPDA) to State Governments and various bodies set up by the Central and State Government, including autonomous bodies and Universities, to support activities pursuant to implementation of the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 particularly relating to rehabilitation and provision of barrier free access. Under the Scheme assistance to State Governments and Institutions run by the Central/State Government is given for the following activities:-

(i) To provide barrier free environment in important government buildings (State Secretariat, other important State level offices, Collectorates, State University Buildings/ Campuses, Medical Colleges and Main Hospitals at Divisional Headquarters, other important Government buildings), for PwDs as per Section 46 of the PwD Act. This would include provision for ramps, rails, lifts, adaptation of toilets for wheelchair users, brail signages and auditory signals, tactile flooring, etc.
(ii) To make Government websites at the State and District levels accessible to PwDs, as per guidelines for Indian Government Websites issued by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (D/o AR&PG), Government of India.
(iii) To set up early intervention centres
(iv) One time assistance to construct building for the Office of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.

Further, Ministry has launched the Accessibility India Campaign to promote barrier environment for persons with disabilities.

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